

July 13, 1944.

Mrs. Don Carlos Peete,  
4140 Cambridge,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

My dear Alice:

Your letter just came and I am answering it immediately regarding Jinny Jane. I believe that she would be happy in a sorority and I am sure she would get plenty of bids from the outstanding sororities.

Virginia Hutson Getto, Mike Getto's wife, is a very strong Pi Phi, as is Milton's wife, Isabel. Of course, Eleanor is a Kappa, but she is away. But I know a great many girls in the Kappa sorority that I could see and arrange for dates with the Kappas. Dr. Fred Wrightman's daughter, Rosalie, is a Kappa and she is a very good friend of ours. Dr. Wrightman was a Missouri Phi Psi. I have known him since his school days at Columbia.

And the same for the Thetas. I can not think of the individuals now, but of course Mrs. Lindley was a Theta, as are a great number of the wives of men on the faculty. Margaret Stratton, the daughter of Dr. George Stratton, in the Chemistry Department, is a Theta. Mrs. Malott is a Delta Gamma. I would be very happy, of course, to make the very necessary contacts to see that Jinny Jane gets dates with all of these sororities.

Here is my estimate of the fraternities and sororities at the University, or, in fact, in the midwest. They are badly, badly overdone and overstressed. But they do have their place. If a girl can work at it sensibly, look them all over, and then actually choose from the group that she thinks she would be most compatible with, if she should get the bid from this sorority, then I would say that she would be a smart girl. But if a girl would look at it from a standpoint that if she doesn't make this sorority all is lost, then that is the wrong conception.

Now, please understand that I say in the beginning that fraternities and sororities are overstressed here. They are. The kids in these sororities think they are more "hot pumpkins" than they are. It is a state of mind that has not been clarified by the youngsters as yet. At every fraternity gathering that I have been I tell them very definitely that in my opinion are the most badly overstressed thing that I know of. Then, when I deflate them from that standpoint, I tell them of the benefits of the fraternities. The sense of belonging, the thought of having close friendships that mean more than just conventional acquaintances, and the responsibility of knowing that this group has to foot the bills and make the thing go -- something for youngsters that is challenging and at the same time satisfying. And then the parents get quite a kick out of coming to the organizations because they are run well, things are done for each